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*Admitted only in Maryland
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 *Practice limited to
 Federal Agencies

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Art Unit 2456

Mail Stop Amendment

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
 Application No. 10/076,181; Filing or 371(c) Date: February 12, 2002
 For: System and Method for Providing Distributed Access Control to
 Secured Items
 Inventors: HILDEBRAND *et al.*
 Our Ref: 2222.5390002

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action is an Amendment and Reply under 37 C.F.R.
 § 1.111.

The document is being filed electronically through EFS-Web.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent
 application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency,
 or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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 Enclosure
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